
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

Earle B. Amey, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4969, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: eamey@usgs.gov

Dwayne Penn (data), (703) 648-7952

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

TUNGSTEN IN AUGUST 1996

Based upon net production of intermediate tungsten products, including metal powder and tungsten carbide powder produced from hydrogen reduced metal powder, the U.S. industrial tungsten activity for August 1996 decreased about 39% compared with that of July 1996, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. U.S. industrial tungsten activity for the first 8 months of 1996 was 17% lower than for the same period of 1995. Reported consumption of tungsten in all end-use products through August 1996 decreased by approximately 27% compared with reported consumption of tungsten through the same period of 1995.

July 1996 trade data are included in this issue. Trade data for August 1996 will appear in a subsequent issue.

The combined wolframite and scheelite prices from Metal Bulletin were:

Low: \$45/mtu WO₃ (\$40.82/stu WO₃), September 1-30, 1996

High: \$55/mtu WO₃ (\$49.90/stu WO₃), September 1-30, 1996

Update

Most of Russia's tungsten mines have closed and will be unable to reopen until tungsten prices are higher. On the other hand, most of Russia's stockpile sales reportedly have been uncontrolled, and tungsten material has been sold at lower and lower price levels. Hence, Russia's mines have had to compete with their own State stockpile.¹

¹Metal Bulletin, Oct. 14, 1996, p. 15.

TABLE 1
U.S. SALIENT TUNGSTEN STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Concentrate			Reported scrap consumption	Intermediate products		
	Reported consumption	Imports for consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/		Net produc- tion 3/	Reported consumption 4/	Stocks, end of period 5/
1995: p/							
January-December	6,320	4,180	631	2,350	8,190	11,900	1,290
1996:							
January	479	310	486	261	718	993	1,220
February	475	162	438	186	933	1,000	1,360
March	504	155	559	223	845	957	1,440
April	580	148	694	236	787	973	1,510
May	415 r/	403	654 r/	200 r/	303 r/	1,070 r/	1,550 r/
June	551 r/	365	721 r/	199 r/	473 r/	947 r/	1,560 r/
July	506 r/	383	633 r/	273 r/	866 r/	935 r/	1,780 r/
August	415	NA	695	250	525	1,110	1,640
Total	3,930	1,930	XX	1,830	5,450	7,980	XX

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Reported by consumers.

3/ Net production of tungsten metal powder, tungsten carbide powder, chemicals, and other products.

4/ Includes data on tungsten carbide powder from secondary sources.

5/ Reported by producers.

TABLE 2
U.S. PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND STOCKS OF
AMMONIUM PARATUNGSTATE, BY MONTH 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period	Production	Consumption	Stocks, end of period 2/
1995: p/			
January-December	2,580 3/	7,690	338
1996:			
January	565	598	370
February	W	630	366
March	556	782	357
April	W	742	319
May	W	619 r/	299 r/
June	W	531 r/	391 r/
July	677	639 r/	W
August	592	673	576
Total	2,390	5,210	XX

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Producers and consumers.

3/ Excludes seven months of withheld data.

TABLE 3
U.S. PRODUCTION AND STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Product	Net production 2/			Stocks at end of period	
	1996		Year to date	1995 p/	1996 August
	1995 p/	August			
Metal powder	2,910	197	2,850	818	997
Tungsten carbide powder (made from metal powder)	5,280	328	2,600	348	493
Cast and crystalline carbide powder; other	W	--	--	W	W
Chemicals	W	W	W	126	145
Total	8,190	525	5,450	1,290	1,640

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Gross production less quantity used to make other products in table.

TABLE 4
U.S. REPORTED CONSUMPTION, BY END USE, AND CONSUMER STOCKS OF TUNGSTEN PRODUCTS IN AUGUST 1996 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

End Use	Ferro-tungsten	Tungsten metal powder	Tungsten carbide powder	Scheelite (natural, synthetic)	Tungsten scrap 2/	Other tungsten materials 3/	Total	Total year to date
Steel:								
Stainless and heat-resisting	W	--	W	--	W	--	W	W
Alloy	2	--	--	--	--	--	2	13
Tool	19	--	--	--	--	--	19	121
Total	21	--	W	--	W	--	21	134
Superalloys	--	W	2	--	14	3	19	147
Alloys (excludes steels and superalloys):								
Cutting and wear-resistant materials	--	W	531	--	W	171	702	4,540
Other alloys 4/	--	W	W	--	W	--	W	1
Mill products made from metal powder	--	W	--	--	--	--	W	360
Chemical and ceramic uses	--	W	W	--	--	W	W	W
Miscellaneous and unspecified	4	32	331	--	W	W	367	2,800
Total	25	32	864 5/	--	14	174	1,110	XX
Total consumption, year to date	223	501	6,940 5/	--	120	198	--	7,980
Stocks, August 31, 1996	38	39	491 5/	1	27	1,500	2,100	XX

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Does not include that used in making primary tungsten products.

3/ Includes tungsten chemicals.

4/ Includes welding and hard-facing rods and materials and nonferrous alloys.

5/ Based on reported consumption plus information from secondary sources; includes estimates.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of origin	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Ferro- tungsten	Lumps, grains, powders	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:								
Total	4,180	1,290	652	312	476	3,260	10,200	XX
1996:								
May	403	73	80	108	21	280	964	XX
June	365	63	15	16	18	249	726	XX
July:								
Australia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3
Austria	--	--	--	--	--	4	4	12
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	2
Bolivia	35	--	--	--	--	--	35	312
Canada	--	--	--	1	3	--	4	32
China	--	111	12	3	5	310	441	2,540
Czech Republic	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9
Germany	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	15	(3/)	15	135
Hong Kong	--	--	--	--	--	38	38	191
Hungary	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	4
Israel	--	--	--	1	--	1	2	7
Japan	--	--	--	3	(3/)	6	9	53
Kazakstan	46	--	--	--	--	--	46	126
Korea, Republic of	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	6
Mexico	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	45
Netherlands	--	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	54
Peru	10	--	--	--	--	--	10	249
Portugal	179	--	--	--	--	--	179	331
Russia	89	--	32	(3/)	--	20	141	858
Sweden	--	19	--	3	--	(3/)	22	40
Switzerland	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	2
Thailand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	11
United Kingdom	24	--	--	--	--	1	25	375
Uzbekistan	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	30
Total	383	130	43	12	22	381	972	XX
Total, year to date	1,930	848	353	236	185	1,870	XX	5,420

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungsten oxide, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Imports of waste and scrap in July 1996 totaled 179 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 6
U.S. EXPORTS OF TUNGSTEN, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, tungsten content)

Period and country of destination	Con- cen- trate	Ammonium tungstates	Metal powder e/	Tungsten carbide	Other e/ 2/	Total	Total year to date
1995:							
Total	5	238	484	1,670	369	2,760	XX
1996:							
May	6	--	35	75	19	136	XX
June	3	17	25	173	34	252	XX
July:							
Argentina	--	--	1	--	--	1	2
Australia	--	--	--	2	--	2	11
Austria	--	--	(3/)	3	--	3	21
Belgium	--	--	--	(3/)	2	2	6
Brazil	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	(3/)	5
Canada	--	--	3	22	4	29	268
China	(3/)	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	23
Denmark	--	--	--	1	--	1	1
France	--	--	5	(3/)	1	6	49
Germany	--	--	11	16	(3/)	27	299
Guatemala	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Honduras	--	--	--	--	--	--	18
Hong Kong	--	--	1	--	(3/)	1	6
India	--	--	--	--	1	1	9
Ireland	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	3
Israel	--	--	--	1	(3/)	1	36
Italy	--	--	--	9	(3/)	10	73
Japan	--	--	(3/)	1	1	2	103
Korea, Republic of	--	--	1	(3/)	1	2	10
Luxembourg	--	--	--	1	--	1	11
Mexico	--	--	(3/)	1	3	4	24
Netherlands	1	--	--	--	(3/)	1	8
Portugal	--	--	--	--	--	--	1
Saudi Arabia	--	--	--	--	1	1	1
Singapore	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	15
South Africa	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	15
Spain	--	--	(3/)	--	1	1	6
Sweden	--	--	1	10	--	11	64
Switzerland	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	4
Taiwan	--	--	--	1	1	2	33
United Kingdom	--	--	--	9	1	10	84
Venezuela	--	--	--	(3/)	--	(3/)	2
Total	1	--	24	78	19	120	XX
Total, year to date	17	66	163	784	185	XX	1,220

e/ Tungsten content estimated in part. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes calcium, potassium, and sodium tungstates, mixtures and materials in chief value tungsten, tungstic acid, unwrought ingots and shot, other unwrought tungsten and materials, wrought tungsten, and other tungsten compounds.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Note: Exports of waste and scrap in July 1996 totaled 39 metric tons, tungsten content.

Source: Bureau of the Census.